

PATENT  
USSN 09/921,492  
674509-2032REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of this application and consideration and entry of this paper are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herein, which place the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 13-16 are pending. Claim 1 was amended without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents.

Claim 1 was amended to correct an inadvertent typographical redundancy.

No new matter is added.

It is submitted that these claims are patentably distinct from the references cited by the Examiner, and that these claims are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. The amendments to the claims and the remarks made herein are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103 or 112; but rather the amendments and remarks are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

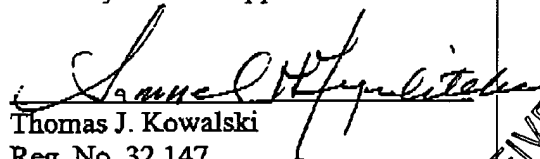
CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks and amendments herewith and those of record, the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance, or an interview at a very early date with a view to placing the application in condition for allowance, are earnestly solicited. The undersigned looks forward to hearing favorably from the Examiner at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

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**APPENDIX: MARKED VERSION OF AMENDMENT**

Kindly amend the application, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claim 1, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, to read as follows:

1. (Thrice Amended) A process for the preparation of a modified masa foodstuff, the process comprising the steps of:

(i) preparing a masa by nixtamalisation of corn; and

(ii) contacting a reducing agent or an enzyme with

(a) the masa, and optionally

(b) the corn prior to nixtamalisation;

such that the conformation of a protein native to the corn is changed or such that a peptide or disulphite bond of a protein native to the corn is cleaved,

wherein the enzyme is a protease, and wherein the reducing agent is capable of cleaving a disulphite bond of a protein native to the corn [is cleaved].